“Sumer is icumen in”–as the 13th century English “Cuckoo” part-song puts it – at least for those of us in the northern hemisphere. As the days lengthen and the sun warms us, the cuckoo lays her eggs in the nests of other birds – she is the origin of the word “cuckold”, a man who is unaware of his wife’s infidelities. This month we publish a fascinating range of research exploring influences on sexual behaviour exploration. In a paper aptly titled “Summer Heat”, Cornelisse and colleagues explore seasonal effects on sexual partner numbers and STI diagnoses, reporting that summer is indeed a time of higher partner numbers and STI diagnoses.1 You can listen to a discussion of the paper by Katy Turner and Vincent Cornelisse on our podcast page at sti.bmj.com. A complex dynamic between STI risk and reproductive history is reported by Decker et al2 in an interesting paper which explores young women’s sexual behaviour with biological fathers of their child, by contrast with other partnerships. They identify higher risk for unprotected intercourse with biological fathers, a finding which may have relevance for sexual health providers. The influence of peers on behaviour is well-established in health psychology and also appears to operate monogamous. Schick present an interesting paper which highlights the global issue of adolescent sex workers3 and the spatial distribution of low-level and medium-flee female sex workers in three provinces in China. Sex Transm Infect 2016;92:309–15.

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Highlights from this issue

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